



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Dale J Schmidt** Sheriff   **Scott Smith** Chief Deputy

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Scams Targeting Businesses

Over the last few weeks local business owners have been the target of a phone scam. The perpetrator of the scam calls the business and claims that they are from the local utility company. The scam began in our area targeting WE Energies customers and has since grown to include Waupun Utilities, and now most recently Juneau Utilities customers. The scammers like to call outside of business hours, but that is not always the case. Their claim is that the customer is behind on their utilities bill. They threaten that the utility will shut off their power if they do not immediately pay the alleged overdue amount. Some of the amounts being alleged as being overdue are in the \$800 range. The scammer will ask for payment using a prepaid debit card and will not accept other forms of payment. When questioned by the business owner, the scammer will become confrontational and begin arguing and threatening the business owner.

It is the recommendation of the Sheriff's Office that if you receive one of these calls, end your conversation with them and contact the utility company using a phone number listed in the phone book or on your utility bill. Confirm with them that the call you received was not from them and advise them that someone is scamming customers claiming to be from the utility company. As always, if you need additionally assistance or if you have questions, do not be afraid to contact your local law enforcement agency or the Sheriff's Office as we are always willing to assist.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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